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# Declension

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A declension is a group of nouns, adjectives, or pronouns that all change their form or word endings in the same way according to gender, number, or grammatical case.<sup>1</sup>

A declension is simply a category like a Volkswagen is a category of cars into which the Passat, Jetta, Golf, Lupo and Beetle fall. Each of these models has its own characteristics and cannot be interchanged. The Jetta is a Jetta any way one looks at it, just as the 1<sup>st</sup> declension is the 1<sup>st</sup> declension.

Let's use **NOUNS** as the example.

Keep in mind that adjectives and pronouns have declensions also.

To identify the declension into which a noun falls, pay particular attention to the genitive ending of the noun, which is always the second form in a dictionary entry. If the genitive ending is as in the following chart, then the declension is as follows:

Declension	Genitive Ending
1 <sup>st</sup>	ae
2 <sup>nd</sup>	i
3 <sup>rd</sup>	is
4 <sup>th</sup>	ûs
5 <sup>th</sup>	ei

1 <sup>st</sup> Declension		
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	puella	puellae
Genitive	puellae	puellarum
Dative	puellae	puellis
Accusative	puellam	puellas
Ablative	puellâ	puellis

2 <sup>nd</sup> Declension		
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	colonus	coloni
Genitive	coloni	colonorum
Dative	colono	colonis
Accusative	colonus	colonos
Ablative	colônô	colonis

3 <sup>rd</sup> Declension		
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	rex	reges
Genitive	regis	regum
Dative	regi	regibus
Accusative	regem	reges
Ablative	rege	regibus

4 <sup>th</sup> Declension		
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	manus	manûs
Genitive	manûs	manuum
Dative	manui	manibus
Accusative	manum	manûs
Ablative	manû	manibus

5 <sup>th</sup> Declension		
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	spes	spes
Genitive	spei	sperum
Dative	spei	spebus
Accusative	spem	spes
Ablative	spe	spebus

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